

"I'm fortunate that I got the part in *Point Break*"

pearing in a mature role opposite Patrick Swayze and Gary Busey, and I like the reckless misadventure that I'm consumed in for *Bill And Ted*.

"I'm fortunate that I got the part in *Point Break*. The script had been around for years, and a few other guys were up for the role of Johnny Utah (Johnny Depp and Matthew Broderick). I had come to the conclusion, after *Bill And Ted*, that I'd always be offered 'teen' roles, and I didn't mind that. So I kinda dismissed the opportunity of clinching the part at first. But the more I thought about it, the more it burned in my head. I mean, it was a great part, and it was six months on the most gorgeous locations you could imagine. Sun, sand and surf. If this was grown-up performing, then count me in."

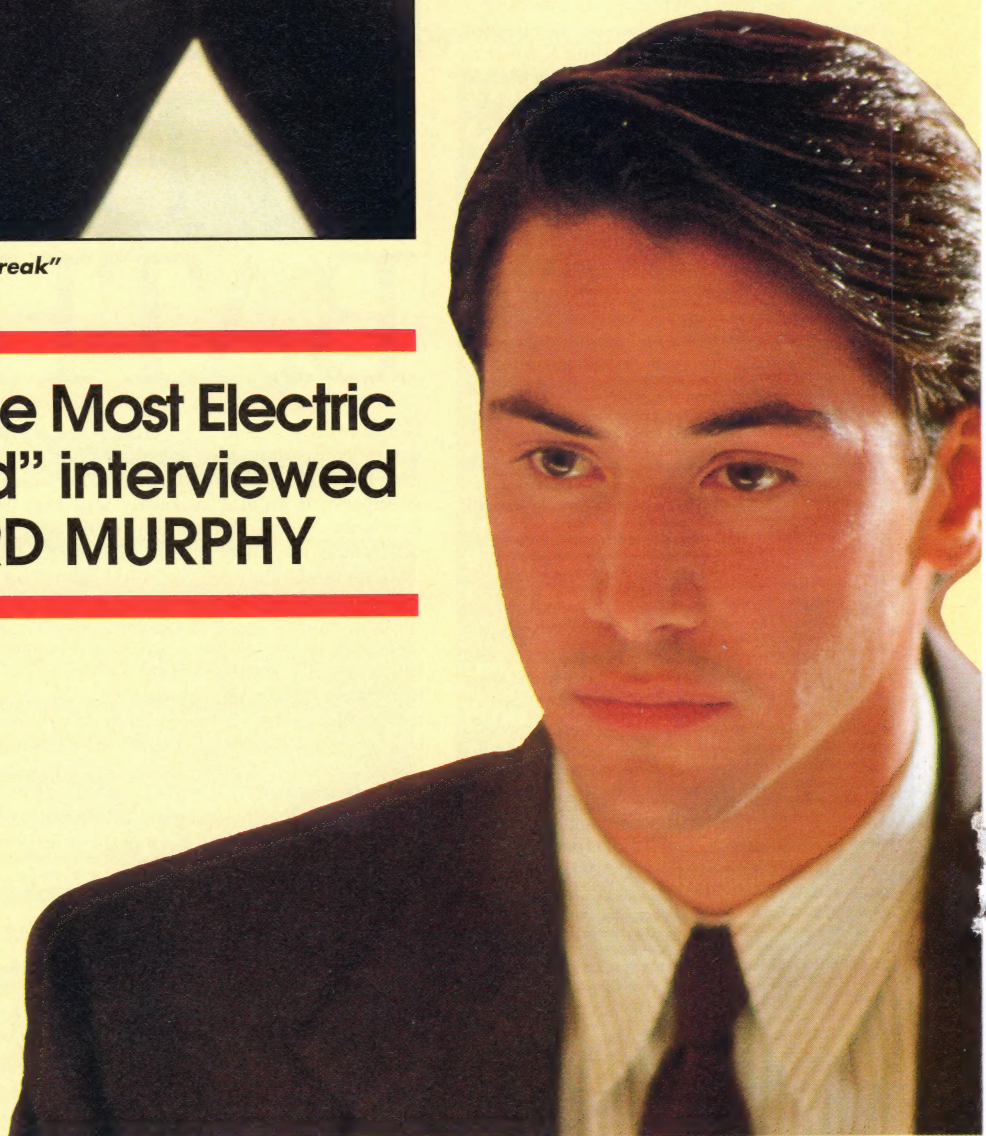
Born in Beirut of a Hawaiian father, young Keanu has spent stints in Australia and New York, before settling in Canada. He dropped out of school at 16, and quickly landed a part in a Coca Cola

They call him "The Most Electric Kid In Hollywood" interviewed here by EDWARD MURPHY

Keanu Reeves has finally marked his card in Hollywood. The 26 year old half-Hawaiian heart throb has punched through a series of high profile teen roles (first in *River's Edge* and then in *Bill And Ted's Excellent Adventure*), and landed a major role as the young FBI crusader in the stylish action adventure, *Point Break*. Squaring off opposite Patrick Swayze's bottle blonde surfer-cum-bank raider, Reeves invests a "mature" performance that will undoubtedly place him in new casting sessions for the future.

Of course, he hasn't "zeroed" out completely – for *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey* is on it's way to a big screen near you.

"I like the balance between *Point Break* and *Bill And Ted*," the actor tells me. "I enjoyed the respectability of ap-



KEANU RE



Keanu with Alex Winter in their Bill And Ted sequel, *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey*. "The second picture fitted on me like a glove," says Keanu

commercial, which was transmitted on national television. Those boyish good looks of his soon sent him accelerating into the bright lights of Tinseltown.

In person, Reeves revels in his reputation as "the most electric kid in Hollywood." Psychologists call his kind

of behaviour, "hyper" – but there's more to the young actor's psyche than meets the eye.

"Dude" and "cool" and "man" bounce off Keanu's lips with the regularity of breath, and one can't help but wonder if he's now in a position to influence the input of his own roles.

"I don't really think about that," he replies. "I guess it's true that writers and producers usually create characters with people specifically in mind. But I've never known them to do that with me, y'know. But I'm not unique. I know loads of guys who talk like myself."

He has a reputation for burning rubber, on the seat of his Moto Guzzi motorcycle, which he confesses to driving at 130 mph. His consumption of film roles is equally unbelievable – 19 movies over a five year period and still accelerating.

Add to the list for this year: the surreal romance *Aunt Julia And The Scriptwriter* and a low budget psycho-drama called *My Own Private Idaho*.

"I'm young and kinda healthy, so why not?" Reeves enquires. "I'm not hanging around for anything else. I love performing and I love appearing on the big screen so if I can fit four movies into a year, then why not? I won't be doing that forever. I have my scopes set on other

things. I'd like to do lots more theatre, and I'd like to write a book or something. I've got lots of ideas in my head."

Reeves soon bounces back on an extreme high to talk about *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey*.

"I could go on making these movies till I'm 60," he enthuses. "I was pretty hooked by the first picture. I loved the characters, you know, and the fact that they were thrown back and forth in time and having to react in this totally 'dumb struck' fashion.

"The second picture fitted on me like a glove. And it was great because it wasn't just a rehash of old rhythms and ideas. So that gave me a buzz and has kept the thing really fresh in my eyes. So I guess that they could still go on a little further with the idea, as long as the public stay interested in that, which I think they will."

Keanu sizzles with excitement for a while, before cooling off with the thought of relaxing on the nearby beach. "You know what's a nice thought? Retirement. That's what we've got to look forward to. A hundred movies in the can, and time to relax on a warm beach. Isn't that a totally awesome idea?"

Keanu has recently been working on Coppola's *Dracula* movie. ●

REEVES